IGNITEnorfolk (Wesley Foundation at ODU)

Ministry Description:

The IGNITEnorfolk is the United Methodist campus ministry at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. It is an extension ministry of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and has served the students of ODU for over 70 years. The heart behind IGNITE is to help people experience the love of Jesus in real and tangible ways: bringing people together AND sending them out; speaking about God’s love AND embodying it; going to church, AND being the church. IGNITE’s roots are found in its mission and service work across a very diverse campus and around the city. Its two primary ministries are IGNITEpantry and IGNITEmentoring. The goal of these ministries is to serve those in need - whether hungry students at ODU or children throughout the city - while showing ODU students how God can work through them to change lives.

IGNITE also believes worship and discipleship are essential. Worship services are casual, relevant, and welcoming. People say that they attend because of the judgment-free environment where messages speak directly to the issues they are facing each day (e.g. self-image, depression and anxiety, dating and sexuality, failure, finances, fear, etc.). Services are geared towards the campus community and provide a safe and comfortable space for young people to discover and to grow closer to God. Similarly, small groups build upon worship, discussing questions that further the conversation, giving students opportunities to deepen their relationships with God and each other.

IGNITE is also blessed with a capable staff. IGNITE currently has 10 people on staff, almost entirely students, most serving as volunteer interns. The family-like atmosphere inspires staff not only to strive to maintain and grow IGNITE’s ministry, but also to help one another grow by working closely with each other in both professional and personal matters.

Finally, IGNITE is an incredibly diverse ministry. Its diversity falls along racial, socio-economic, and even religious lines. Many of the students who come to IGNITE are unchurched, searching for answers. In IGNITE, they find a place where they can safely ask questions, unafraid of judgment. In this way, IGNITE has been able to overcome many of the social stigmas associated with church and connect with people who otherwise may never have been introduced to a relationship while at ODU.

IGNITE has strong financial support from the annual conference, the Elizabeth River District, and benefits from good relationships with local United Methodist churches. IGNITE also has strong relationships with staff and offices throughout campus. The
IGNITE building is located across the street from the ODU campus, very close to the main dining hall.

**Position Description:**

The Campus Minister/Director is a pastor to the student community who provides ongoing preaching and teaching, mentoring and discipleship, care and counseling, and relational leadership to grow and equip students for a life of faith and servant leadership. The Campus Minister/Director is also a director for the organization who provides strategic and administrative leadership for IGNITE in partnership with the student leadership team and the board, develops relationships on campus, in the community, and throughout the annual conference that help grow and strengthen the ministry.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- A servant leader who feels called to ministry with a diverse community of college students and who possesses gifts for relationship-building, organizational leadership, pastoral care, and student discipleship.
- Bachelor’s degree, pursuing theological studies, and licensed or otherwise credentialed within the United Methodist Church
- Ministry experience working with students and/or young adults

**Preferences:**

- An ordained deacon or elder in the United Methodist Church
- A Master of Divinity from a United Methodist accredited seminary
- At least 2 years of experience leading a campus ministry or serving in university chaplaincy

**To apply for the position:**

Please submit a resume including at least 3 references along with a cover letter describing your interest in campus ministry, and this position specifically.

All submissions should be emailed to info@ignitenorfolk.org. Specific questions about the position may be directed to Rev. Max Blalock, mwblalock@wm.edu or 757-634-7406.
**Timeline:**

Resumes are being accepted now and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. Desired start date is July 31, 2018.

**Salary & Benefits:**

Compensation (salary & housing allowance) depends on experience. Benefits package includes health insurance, UMC pension, reimbursable account, and continuing education. A moving stipend will be provided, amount to be negotiated.